

Facts About Children in Foster Care ■ Laurens County

2007 Edition (January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006 Data)

OVERVIEW

Facts About Children in Foster Care is intended to provide annual data about children in foster care for every county in South Carolina. It covers: **Demographics** -- how many children there are in foster care, their characteristics and whether their prevalence is increasing or decreasing; **Progress Measures** -- length of time in care, number of placements, achieving permanency, and recidivism rates; and **Areas of Concern** -- legal and program shortcomings identified at monthly citizen reviews. Information is collected from local volunteer citizen review boards that review the cases of all children who have been in foster care at least four months; each case is then reviewed every six months thereafter until the child leaves care. Inquiries about this report and requests for copies of this and other counties' reports should be made to: Lisa Vosburgh, Data and Research Manager, or Denise Barker, Executive Director, South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board, 1205 Pendleton Street, Columbia, SC 29201. Phone: (803)734-0480; E-Mail: lvosburgh@oepp.sc.gov or on the web at <http://www.govoepp.state.sc.us/fcrb/>

The 2007 *Facts About Children in Foster Care* edition includes comparative statistics about children reported by the South Carolina Department of Social Services, who remain in foster care at least four consecutive months and were reviewed by the South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board at least once in 2006. It also includes demographics on those children who entered foster care late in the year and were not reviewed until 2007, but does not yet incorporate them into progress measures or areas of concern.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

It is estimated that at the end of 2006, there were over one million (U.S. Bureau of Census) children under that age of 18 in South Carolina. Of these, 4,976 children were in out of home placements statewide for at least four consecutive months and reviewed by the Children's Foster Care Review Board January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006. Children in out of home placements represent an increasing portion of the population of all children under the age of 18 in the state, up an average of 2.4% since 2002. Children reviewed by the Review Board constituted .48% of all children in the state in 2006, up slightly from .47% in 2002. Since 2002, the number of children entering foster care has increased 26%, while the number of children leaving foster care has only increased by 2%. The number of children remaining in foster care has also increased steadily since 2002.

The tables on the following pages provide demographic data and compare the status of children in foster care statewide with county data in four major categories: Children Reviewed, Children Entering Foster Care, Children Leaving Foster Care, and Children Remaining in Foster Care.

CHILDREN REVIEWED

123 reviews were held in Laurens County for 67 children in 2006. Data tables included in this report compare demographics of children reviewed statewide with county data. Data are based in information reported by the Department of Social Services and collected at the child's last review board meeting held in 2006.

CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE

7 children entered foster care and were reviewed by Laurens County Review Boards in 2006. Of the children entering foster care in 2006, 86% of these children entered due to physical neglect. The remaining children entered care due to abandonment, voluntary placement, dependency, or juvenile offenses. None of the seven children who entered foster care in 2006 had previously been in foster care.

CHILDREN LEAVING FOSTER CARE

16 During 2006, 16 children who were reviewed by Laurens County Review Boards left foster care. Permanency for a child means placement with a “forever family”. A child achieves legal permanency upon leaving the foster care system either by returning home to their natural parent or by being adopted. The largest percent of children (50%) returned home, followed by 25% who were emancipated or turned 18. Nineteen percent (19%) of the children who left care were adopted and 6% were placed with a relative.

Data tables included provide comparative demographic data and departure reasons for children leaving foster care. The data represented in these tables was provided by the Department of Social Services and collected at the last review board meeting held prior to the child leaving foster care.

CHILDREN REMAINING IN FOSTER CARE

47 children in Laurens County entered foster care prior to January 1, 2006 and remained active in the foster care system as of January 1, 2007. Data is based on information submitted by the Department of Social Services and collected at the child’s last review board meeting in 2006.

SUMMARY OF REVIEWS AND AREAS OF CONCERN

67 children in foster care were reviewed by Laurens County Review Boards in 2006.

PARTICIPATION BY INTERESTED PARTIES AT LOCAL REVIEWS:

Interested parties are invited by the Department of Social Services and include parents, foster parents, guardian ad litem, foster children, and others who may be involved with a child’s placement in foster care. Those who attend reviews provide the local boards with important information used to make recommendations. In Laurens County **165** individuals attended review board meetings in 2006.

AREAS OF CONCERN:

The monthly review process allows local review boards to identify systemic concerns that are barriers to permanence for children in foster care. These systemic deficiencies, or Areas of Concern, are defined as violations of law or policy. In Laurens County, **119** Legal and **160** Program Areas of Concern were cited in 2006.

Comparative County Statistics

| | Children Reviewed | | Children Entering | | Children Leaving | | Children Remaining | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| | n | % * | n | % * | n | % * | n | % * |
| | 4,976 | 100% | 1,914 | 100% | 1,679 | 100% | 2,884 | 100% |
| Statewide Totals | | | | | | | | |
| By County | | | | | | | | |
| Abbeville | 24 | 0.48% | 8 | 0.42% | 5 | 0.30% | 14 | 0.49% |
| Aiken | 138 | 2.77% | 81 | 4.23% | 66 | 3.93% | 62 | 2.15% |
| Allendale | 6 | 0.12% | 6 | 0.31% | 1 | 0.06% | 5 | 0.17% |
| Anderson | 336 | 6.75% | 139 | 7.26% | 120 | 7.15% | 185 | 6.41% |
| Bamberg | 23 | 0.46% | 5 | 0.26% | 4 | 0.24% | 16 | 0.55% |
| Barnwell | 58 | 1.17% | 17 | 0.89% | 21 | 1.25% | 33 | 1.14% |
| Beaufort | 67 | 1.35% | 33 | 1.72% | 21 | 1.25% | 38 | 1.32% |
| Berkeley | 259 | 5.20% | 104 | 5.43% | 116 | 6.91% | 144 | 4.99% |
| Calhoun | 12 | 0.24% | 3 | 0.16% | 4 | 0.24% | 10 | 0.35% |
| Charleston | 516 | 10.37% | 129 | 6.74% | 115 | 6.85% | 356 | 12.34% |
| Cherokee | 76 | 1.53% | 26 | 1.36% | 20 | 1.19% | 48 | 1.66% |
| Chester | 44 | 0.88% | 18 | 0.94% | 22 | 1.31% | 19 | 0.66% |
| Chesterfield | 46 | 0.92% | 16 | 0.84% | 17 | 1.01% | 21 | 0.73% |
| Clarendon | 68 | 1.37% | 45 | 2.35% | 26 | 1.55% | 20 | 0.69% |
| Colleton | 70 | 1.41% | 23 | 1.20% | 36 | 2.14% | 32 | 1.11% |
| Darlington | 78 | 1.57% | 39 | 2.04% | 36 | 2.14% | 31 | 1.07% |
| Dillon | 67 | 1.35% | 36 | 1.88% | 18 | 1.07% | 36 | 1.25% |
| Dorchester | 71 | 1.43% | 29 | 1.52% | 30 | 1.79% | 43 | 1.49% |
| Edgefield | 20 | 0.40% | 9 | 0.47% | 12 | 0.71% | 6 | 0.21% |
| Fairfield | 14 | 0.28% | 8 | 0.42% | 5 | 0.30% | 11 | 0.38% |
| Florence | 93 | 1.87% | 39 | 2.04% | 26 | 1.55% | 62 | 2.15% |
| Georgetown | 41 | 0.82% | 15 | 0.78% | 13 | 0.77% | 25 | 0.87% |
| Greenville | 479 | 9.63% | 172 | 8.99% | 144 | 8.58% | 289 | 10.02% |
| Greenwood | 36 | 0.72% | 6 | 0.31% | 18 | 1.07% | 18 | 0.62% |
| Hampton | 11 | 0.22% | 5 | 0.26% | 2 | 0.12% | 6 | 0.21% |
| Horry | 242 | 4.86% | 112 | 5.85% | 86 | 5.12% | 149 | 5.17% |
| Jasper | 17 | 0.34% | 12 | 0.63% | 4 | 0.24% | 12 | 0.42% |
| Kershaw | 47 | 0.94% | 21 | 1.10% | 11 | 0.66% | 27 | 0.94% |
| Lancaster | 71 | 1.43% | 26 | 1.36% | 20 | 1.19% | 36 | 1.25% |
| Laurens | 67 | 1.35% | 7 | 0.37% | 16 | 0.95% | 47 | 1.63% |
| Lee | 34 | 0.68% | 19 | 0.99% | 19 | 1.13% | 12 | 0.42% |
| Lexington | 172 | 3.46% | 69 | 3.61% | 48 | 2.86% | 116 | 4.02% |
| Marion | 105 | 2.11% | 61 | 3.19% | 38 | 2.26% | 51 | 1.77% |
| Marlboro | 52 | 1.05% | 33 | 1.72% | 25 | 1.49% | 23 | 0.80% |
| McCormick | 9 | 0.18% | 4 | 0.21% | 1 | 0.06% | 3 | 0.10% |
| Newberry | 30 | 0.60% | 12 | 0.63% | 6 | 0.36% | 23 | 0.80% |
| Oconee | 145 | 2.91% | 46 | 2.40% | 68 | 4.05% | 75 | 2.60% |
| Orangeburg | 94 | 1.89% | 21 | 1.10% | 41 | 2.44% | 54 | 1.87% |
| Pickens | 101 | 2.03% | 29 | 1.52% | 31 | 1.85% | 59 | 2.05% |
| Richland | 402 | 8.08% | 144 | 7.52% | 115 | 6.85% | 252 | 8.74% |
| Saluda | 10 | 0.20% | 6 | 0.31% | 3 | 0.18% | 3 | 0.10% |
| Spartanburg | 335 | 6.73% | 128 | 6.69% | 101 | 6.02% | 186 | 6.45% |
| Sumter | 124 | 2.49% | 45 | 2.35% | 53 | 3.16% | 69 | 2.39% |
| Union | 14 | 0.28% | 6 | 0.31% | 4 | 0.24% | 9 | 0.31% |
| Williamsburg | 52 | 1.05% | 16 | 0.84% | 16 | 0.95% | 34 | 1.18% |
| York | 200 | 4.02% | 86 | 4.49% | 75 | 4.47% | 114 | 3.95% |

* Percent of Statewide Total

Children Reviewed

| | Statewide | Laurens |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| All Children | 4,976 | 67 |
| Case Management (percent) | | |
| Adoption | 15% | 9% |
| County | 62% | 75% |
| Managed Treatment Services | 23% | 16% |
| Race (percent) | | |
| Caucasian | 44% | 67% |
| African American | 47% | 22% |
| Hispanic | 2% | 2% |
| Other Minorities | 7% | 9% |
| Gender (percent) | | |
| Male | 51% | 57% |
| Female | 49% | 43% |
| Age at Last Review (percent) | | |
| 0-5 | 30% | 34% |
| 6-9 | 16% | 12% |
| 10-15 | 29% | 25% |
| 16+ | 25% | 28% |
| Placement Type (percent) | | |
| Foster Care Placement | 69% | 73% |
| Therapeutic Placement | 31% | 27% |

Children Entering Foster Care

| | Statewide | Laurens |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| All Children | 1,914 | 7 |
| Reason Entered Care (percent) | | |
| Neglect | 53% | 86% |
| Abuse | 25% | 0% |
| Other | 22% | 14% |
| Race (percent) | | |
| Caucasian | 48% | 71% |
| African American | 42% | 29% |
| Hispanic | 4% | 0% |
| Other Minorities | 6% | 0% |
| Gender (percent) | | |
| Male | 49% | 86% |
| Female | 51% | 14% |
| Age at Entry (percent) | | |
| 0-5 | 46% | 71% |
| 6-9 | 18% | 0% |
| 10-15 | 30% | 29% |
| 16+ | 6% | 0% |
| Re-Entry (percent) | | |
| All Children | 24% | 0% |
| Home | 57% | 0% |
| Relative | 30% | 0% |
| Other | 10% | 0% |
| Adoption | 3% | 0% |

Children Leaving Foster Care

| | Statewide | Laurens |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| All Children | 1,679 | 16 |
| Reason Left Care (percent) | | |
| Returned Home | 38% | 50% |
| Adoption | 25% | 19% |
| Emancipation/Aged Out | 15% | 25% |
| Relative | 22% | 6% |
| Other | <1% | 0% |
| Race (percent) | | |
| Caucasian | 47% | 38% |
| African American | 45% | 44% |
| Hispanic | 2% | 12% |
| Other Minorities | 6% | 6% |
| Gender (percent) | | |
| Male | 49% | 63% |
| Female | 51% | 37% |
| Age at Closure (percent) | | |
| 0-5 | 33% | 44% |
| 6-9 | 18% | 13% |
| 10-15 | 20% | 6% |
| 16+ | 29% | 37% |
| Average Time In Care (years) | 2.2 | 2.6 |
| Average Number of Placements | 3.2 | 4.3 |
| Placement Type (percent) | | |
| Foster Care Placement | 79% | 69% |
| Therapeutic Placement | 21% | 31% |

Children Adopted

| | Statewide | Laurens |
|---|-----------|---------|
| All Children | 427 | 3 |
| Adopted within 24 Months (percent) | 17% | 0% |
| Teen Adoptions (percent) | 10% | 0% |
| Race (percent) | | |
| Caucasian | 48% | 67% |
| African American | 44% | 0% |
| Hispanic | 2% | 33% |
| Other Minorities | 6% | 0% |
| Gender (percent) | | |
| Male | 54% | 100% |
| Female | 46% | 0% |
| Age at Adoption (percent) | | |
| 0-5 | 57% | 67% |
| 6-9 | 24% | 33% |
| 10-15 | 18% | 0% |
| 16+ | 1% | 0% |
| Average Time In Care (years) | 3.5 | 3.1 |
| Average Number of Placements | 2.3 | 2.7 |
| Placement Type (percent) | | |
| Foster Care Placement | 79% | 100% |
| Therapeutic Placement | 21% | 0% |

Children Remaining in Foster Care

| | Statewide | Laurens |
|---|-----------|---------|
| All Children | 2,884 | 47 |
| Case Management (percent) | | |
| Adoption | 2% | 6% |
| County | 71% | 73% |
| Managed Treatment Services | 27% | 21% |
| Race (percent) | | |
| Caucasian | 42% | 74% |
| African American | 50% | 13% |
| Hispanic | 2% | 2% |
| Other Minorities | 6% | 11% |
| Gender (percent) | | |
| Male | 52% | 51% |
| Female | 48% | 49% |
| Age at Last Review (percent) | | |
| 0-5 | 24% | 28% |
| 6-9 | 15% | 12% |
| 10-15 | 33% | 32% |
| 16+ | 28% | 28% |
| Placement Type (percent) | | |
| Foster Care Placement | 62% | 70% |
| Therapeutic Placement | 38% | 30% |
| Average Time In Care (years) | 4.1 | 3.4 |
| Average Number of Placements (years) | 3.9 | 3.6 |

Summary of Reviews

| | Reviews Conducted | | Children Reviewed | | Participation by Interested Parties | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| | n | % * | n | % * | n | % * |
| | 8,467 | 100% | 4,976 | 100% | 11,138 | 100% |
| Statewide Totals | | | | | | |
| By County | | | | | | |
| Abbeville | 37 | 0.44% | 24 | 0.48% | 45 | 0.40% |
| Aiken | 205 | 2.42% | 138 | 2.77% | 254 | 2.28% |
| Allendale | 19 | 0.22% | 6 | 0.12% | 11 | 0.10% |
| Anderson | 569 | 6.72% | 336 | 6.75% | 710 | 6.37% |
| Bamberg | 42 | 0.50% | 23 | 0.46% | 31 | 0.28% |
| Barnwell | 91 | 1.07% | 58 | 1.17% | 112 | 1.01% |
| Beaufort | 110 | 1.30% | 67 | 1.35% | 125 | 1.12% |
| Berkeley | 437 | 5.16% | 259 | 5.20% | 953 | 8.56% |
| Calhoun | 29 | 0.34% | 12 | 0.24% | 20 | 0.18% |
| Charleston | 955 | 11.28% | 516 | 10.37% | 1,149 | 10.32% |
| Cherokee | 137 | 1.62% | 76 | 1.53% | 205 | 1.84% |
| Chester | 80 | 0.94% | 44 | 0.88% | 95 | 0.85% |
| Chesterfield | 72 | 0.85% | 46 | 0.92% | 101 | 0.91% |
| Clarendon | 101 | 1.19% | 68 | 1.37% | 147 | 1.32% |
| Colleton | 113 | 1.33% | 70 | 1.41% | 105 | 0.94% |
| Darlington | 137 | 1.62% | 78 | 1.57% | 133 | 1.19% |
| Dillon | 111 | 1.31% | 67 | 1.35% | 99 | 0.89% |
| Dorchester | 138 | 1.63% | 71 | 1.43% | 260 | 2.33% |
| Edgefield | 33 | 0.39% | 20 | 0.40% | 13 | 0.12% |
| Fairfield | 23 | 0.27% | 14 | 0.28% | 19 | 0.17% |
| Florence | 153 | 1.81% | 93 | 1.87% | 172 | 1.54% |
| Georgetown | 86 | 1.02% | 41 | 0.82% | 160 | 1.44% |
| Greenville | 778 | 9.19% | 479 | 9.63% | 1,174 | 10.54% |
| Greenwood | 60 | 0.71% | 36 | 0.72% | 80 | 0.72% |
| Hampton | 21 | 0.25% | 11 | 0.22% | 3 | 0.03% |
| Horry | 402 | 4.75% | 242 | 4.86% | 511 | 4.59% |
| Jasper | 33 | 0.39% | 17 | 0.34% | 20 | 0.18% |
| Kershaw | 106 | 1.25% | 47 | 0.94% | 128 | 1.15% |
| Lancaster | 127 | 1.50% | 71 | 1.43% | 112 | 1.01% |
| Laurens | 123 | 1.45% | 67 | 1.35% | 165 | 1.48% |
| Lee | 58 | 0.69% | 34 | 0.68% | 33 | 0.30% |
| Lexington | 308 | 3.64% | 172 | 3.46% | 413 | 3.71% |
| Marion | 166 | 1.96% | 105 | 2.11% | 243 | 2.18% |
| Marlboro | 69 | 0.81% | 52 | 1.05% | 61 | 0.55% |
| McCormick | 14 | 0.17% | 9 | 0.18% | 10 | 0.09% |
| Newberry | 58 | 0.69% | 30 | 0.60% | 84 | 0.75% |
| Oconee | 240 | 2.83% | 145 | 2.91% | 441 | 3.96% |
| Orangeburg | 161 | 1.90% | 94 | 1.89% | 215 | 1.93% |
| Pickens | 209 | 2.47% | 101 | 2.03% | 293 | 2.63% |
| Richland | 649 | 7.67% | 402 | 8.08% | 687 | 6.17% |
| Saluda | 15 | 0.18% | 10 | 0.20% | 21 | 0.19% |
| Spartanburg | 542 | 6.40% | 335 | 6.73% | 549 | 4.93% |
| Sumter | 205 | 2.42% | 124 | 2.49% | 217 | 1.95% |
| Union | 26 | 0.31% | 14 | 0.28% | 28 | 0.25% |
| Williamsburg | 87 | 1.03% | 52 | 1.05% | 84 | 0.75% |
| York | 332 | 3.92% | 200 | 4.02% | 647 | 5.81% |

* Percent of Statewide Total

Areas of Concern Cited

| | Statewide | Laurens |
|--|--------------|------------|
| Total | 11,168 | 279 |
| Legal | | |
| No Timely Permanency Plan Hearing | 1,357 | 47 |
| No Timely Merits Hearing | 940 | 11 |
| No Court Order at Review | 632 | 15 |
| Other Statutory Violations | 466 | 15 |
| No Thorough Adoption Assessment | 373 | 5 |
| No Face to Face Contact | 299 | 17 |
| Non-Compliance with Court Order | 289 | 9 |
| No Timely Probably Cause Hearing | 150 | 0 |
| No Child Specific Recruitment | 53 | 0 |
| Adoption Complaint not Filed Timely | 5 | 0 |
| Legal Subtotal | 4,564 | 119 |
| Program | | |
| No Progress Reports | 1,610 | 33 |
| Incomplete/Inappropriate Case Plan | 856 | 19 |
| Lack of Progress on Permanent Plan | 811 | 48 |
| No Current Case Plan/No Case Plan Within 60 Days | 763 | 9 |
| No Advance Packet | 616 | 7 |
| Interested Parties Not Invited | 402 | 9 |
| No Timely Referral to Adoptions | 369 | 4 |
| No Timely FCRB Review | 333 | 13 |
| No Entry on Central Registry | 285 | 0 |
| No Copy of Pleadings | 180 | 13 |
| Other Policy/Procedure Violations | 122 | 0 |
| No Diligent Search | 96 | 3 |
| No Three Week Notice to Parties | 84 | 0 |
| Lapse in Case Planning/Conflict with Permanent Plan | 77 | 2 |
| Program Subtotal | 6,604 | 160 |